[English]

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Pension to Second World War Veterans

5922. SHRI P.C.THOMAS:Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether second world war veterans who worked in our defence forces are entitled to pension;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is pressing demand for the grant of pension to them;

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) how many persons are there now in the above category who took part in second world war?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b). At the time of Second World War, a large number of Indians were recruited into the Army for the duration of the war plus 12 months thereafter. They were temporary employees and were demobilised after the war. Their service being non-pensionable , war gratuity/ service gratuity, as admissible, was paid to such recruits.

(c) and (d). Various Associations of the ex-Servicemen and certain individuals have been demanding grant of pension to World War II retrenches. It has not been feasible to grant pension to them under the provisions of the Pension Regulations, as their service was non-pensionable.

(e) No such statistics is maintained.

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Defence Production Units in Uttar Pradesh

5923. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish defence production units in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

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Licences for Setting up Mini Yarn Mills

5924. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give licences for setting up new mini yarn mills; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No specific proposal has been received by the Ministry of textiles for giving New Licences for mini yarn projects/mills/ factories.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation] Taxation

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Excise Duty on Pre-Cast Concrete Tiles/Blocks

5925. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had issued orders for exempting pre-cast concrete tiles/blocks from excise duty till March, 1991, on the request of the Government of Rajasthan for the Indira Gandhi Canal Proj-

ect being constructed by Rajasthan State Bridge Construction Corporation;

(b) whether the State Government has now requested the Union Government to exempt the tiles/blocks to be constructed for the above project till March,1992 from the excise duty; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Exemption has been granted vide Order No. 11/91 dated 5.9.1991.

[*English*]

Floating of Project Specific Bonds by Maharashtra to Raise Resources for Irrigation projects

5926. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had forwarded a proposal in January 1991 for according permission to float project-specific Bonds to raise additional resources required for accelerating the completion of the irrigation projects in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) Yes Sir;

(b) As the total investible resources for the market borrowing programme, both for the Central and state Governments, are limited, there is no scope for allowing any additional allocation to Maharashtra Government over and above the market borrowing programme as already approved.

Alleged Irregularities in Chandni Chowk Branch of State Bank of Indore

5927. SHRI RAM BADAN:Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation by C.B.I. has been conducted into letters of credit to some exporters of Punjab amounting to rupees one crore through some bogus bills discounted by the Chandni Chowk, Delhi branch of the State Bank of Indore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount recovered up-to-date, the amount outstanding and the amount written off in each case;

(d) whether any accountability has been fixed by the bank in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH):(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Central Bureau of Investigation after looking into various allegations against State Bank of Indore, Chandni Chowk branch concluded that nothing worth registering a case could be found.

(c) Public sector banks are protected from disclosing information relating to individual constituents including the amounts of bad debts written off and the accounts in which they are written off.